(c) The State Governments furnish monthly reports regarding number of tests carried out by these laboratories. The programme of water quality monitoring and surveillance was reviewed recently and National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme for institutionalization of community participation has been launched in February 2006. Guidelines of the programme have also been issued to the State Governments. It is envisaged in this programme that grassroot level workers will be testing the quality of all drinking water sources with the help of user friendly field test kits. The district level laboratories will test positive samples.

(d) Apart from testing of sources by district level water quality laboratories, surveys are also conducted by the State Governments for identification of water quality affected habitations. As per the survey conducted by State Governments and information compiled on 31/3/2004, the number of quality affected habitations is 2,16,968 with the following break-up-31306 affected with fluoride, 23495 affected with salinity, 118088 iron, 5029 arsenic, 13958 nitrate and 25092 multiple.

Setting up of textile units in Tamil Nadu

2706. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new textile units set up in Tamil Nadu during the last three years in various sectors, year-wise; and

(b) the efforts made by Government to assist in setting up these textile units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The number of new cottonman made fibre textile mills set up during the last three years in the State of Tamil Nadu is an follows:—

Year	Non-SSI			SSI*	Total
	Spinning	Composite	Weaving	Spinning	
2003-04	5	2	0	47	54
2004-05	6	2	0	21	29
2005-06	7	4	1	9	21

*SSI-Small Scale Industry

(b) Through various policy measures taken from time to time, Government has created conducive environment for setting up of the textile units in the country including Tamil Nadu. Certain important measures taken by the Government in this regard include:

(i) To imporve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC).

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganized sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.

(iii) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in July 2005.

(iv) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty.

(v) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in the 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except on 23 machinery items appearing in List 49 which attract Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.

(vi) In the Current Budget (2006-07), with a view to making textile industry more competitive:—

- Import duty on raw materials such as DMT, PTA and MEG has been reduced from 15% to 10% and for paraxylene from 5% to 2%.

- CENVAT on all man made fibre and yarn has been reduced from 16% to 8% and import duty on all man made fibre and yarn from 15% to 10%.
- The peak rate of *ad-valorem* component of customs duty for all non-agricultural products including textiles has been reduced from 15% to 12.5%.
- Special CVD of 4% has been extended to all goods in order to counter balance various internal taxes like sales tax and VAT and to provide a level playing field to indigenous goods which have to bear these taxes. However, fabrics are exempted from this levy.

(vii) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the textile sector under automatic route.

(viii) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(ix) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme *w.e.f.* Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8.9% rate of interest.

(x) Government has dereserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.

(xi) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the Industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.

Purchasing of Cotton by Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.

†2707. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of the cotton purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. from different States particularly from different districts of Andhra Pradesh during the last year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.